



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

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March 19, 2012

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TO: SACHI A. HAMAI
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: ROGER H. GRANBO *RHG*
Assistant County Counsel
Law Enforcement Services Division

RE: Rosa Paez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
Superior Court Case No. VC 056374

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board's recommendation in the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan.

It is requested that this recommendation, the Case Summary, and the Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda of April 3, 2012.

RHG:scr

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Contract Cities Liability Trust Fund Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Rosa Paez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Superior Court Case No. VC056374 in the amount of \$125,043.97, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Sheriff's Department Contract Cities Trust Fund's budget.

This lawsuit arises from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving employees of the Sheriff's Department.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Paez v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	VC056374
COURT	Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk
DATE FILED	May 21, 2010
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff's
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 125,043.97
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	James Abeltin and Frank Sariol
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Richard K. Kudo
NATURE OF CASE	This lawsuit arises from a three-car traffic collision on June 14, 2008, at the intersection of Norwalk Boulevard and Excelsior Drive, Norwalk, California, involving two Sheriff's patrol cars and a civilian vehicle. Plaintiffs Rosa Paez, Jorge Raul Barajas, Jorge Daniel Barajas, Jr., and Liliana Barajas, occupied the civilian vehicle, a Jeep Cherokee. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of the case is warranted.
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 181,227.92
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 62,331.42

Case Name: Rosa Paez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	Saturday, June 14, 2008; approximately 4:58 p.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p><u>Rosa Paez, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, et al.</u> Summary Corrective Action Plan No. 2011-028</p> <p>On Saturday, June 14, 2008, at approximately 4:58 p.m., a Los Angeles County deputy sheriff was driving a standard, black and white County-owned patrol vehicle east on Excelsior Drive, west of Norwalk Boulevard, Norwalk, when the vehicle he was driving collided with the the plaintiff's vehicle in the intersection of Norwalk Boulevard.</p>

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

The plaintiff claims damages for injuries she and a passenger sustained in the traffic collision.

This incident was thoroughly investigated by representatives from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The investigation concluded the deputy sheriff caused the collision by failing to stop at a steady circular red signal, a violation of California Vehicle Code Section 21453(a).

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department had relevant policies and procedures/protocols in effect at the time of this incident.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's training curriculum addresses the circumstances which occurred in this incident.


The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's administrative review revealed employee misconduct. Appropriate administrative action was taken.

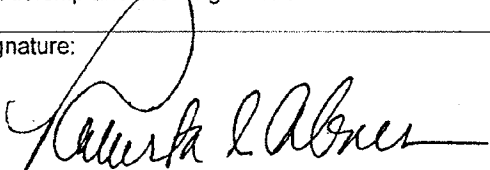
County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

3. State if the corrective actions are applicable to only your department or other County departments:
(If unsure, please contact the Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch for assistance).


- ☐ Potentially has Countywide implications.
- ☐ Potentially has an implication to other departments (i.e., all human services, all safety departments, or one or more other departments).
- ☒ Does not appear to have Countywide or other department(s) implications.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Shaun J. Mathers, Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 12/8/11

Name: (Department Head) Roberta A. Abner, Chief Leadership and Training Division	
Signature: 	Date: 12/8/11

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch

Name: VED COSTANTINO	
Signature: 	Date: 12/20/2011

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